



n.º 455

15 p

COMMANDOS Never Give In



COMMANDOS NEVER GIVE IN



IN MARCH, 1942, A COMMANDO UNIT
CROSSED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.



ITS MISSION WAS TO WIPE OUT THE
GERMAN GARRISON OF FECAMP.

COMPLETE SILENCE!
THE JERRIES ARE
AROUND.



IT WAS A TYPICAL COMMANDO RAID, INTENDED TO SOW CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY AMONG THE GERMANS.

DON'T FORGET - WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN ETRETAT IN TWO DAYS' TIME.

GOOD LUCK,
SIR.

THEY'VE GOT A CUSHY OLD JOB, HAVEN'T THEY, LIEUTENANT? THEY LEAVE US HERE AND THEN GO HOME AND WAIT FOR US TO DO ALL THE WORK.

THEY'VE JUST DONE THEIR PART.

SUDDENLY....



THOSE MEN WERE NEVER TO GO
BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY.



POOR LADS! AND TO THINK A
MOMENT AGO I WAS ENVYING
THEM.

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
THE ENEMY'S ON TO US!



AT THE BATTERIES ON THE COAST...

A MAGNIFICENT SHOT!

SHALL WE SEND OUT A PATROL, HERR KAPITAN?



NO POINT. WE BOTH SAW THAT IT WAS A DIRECT HIT. THERE WON'T BE ANY SURVIVORS.

TRYALFORD III

THE ENGLISH ARE OBSTINATE - AND THAT'S SOMETHING WHICH REALLY PLEASES ME. IT'S VERY AMUSING HUNTING THEM. GOODBYE, SERGEANT. I'LL SPEND THE NIGHT IN THE CASINO.



CONCEITED FOOL! YOU'VE NO IDEA WHO THE COMMANDOS ARE! I'LL ORDER THE SHORE TO BE SEARCHED.







THE OFFICER'S RECKLESSNESS WAS
GOING TO BE FATAL FOR HIM.

THIS IS FOR WHAT
YOU DID TO THE LADS ON
THE LAUNCH!









THE IMPULSIVENESS OF ONE OF THE MEN PROVOKED DISASTER.



THEY NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.

AAGGGHHH!





DAN TRAVIS WAS TAKEN TO FECAMP...



...AND HOSPITALISED.

FOR YOU THE WAR HAS ENDED, LIEUTENANT. NOW
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT PATIENTLY FOR OUR FINAL
VICTORY BEFORE YOU RECOVER YOUR FREEDOM.

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
MY MEN?





LET'S SAY THEY WEREN'T LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE INTERNED IN ONE OF THE REICH'S PRISON CAMPS. YOUR WOUND ISN'T VERY SERIOUS, LIEUTENANT TRAVIS. YOU WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO SAINT OMER SOON. I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY WITH US.



TEN DAYS LATER DAN TRAVIS AND OTHER MEN WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE PRISON CAMP.

GET A MOVE ON,
YOU IDLE LOT!







MAJOR HEINZ WUPPERTAL GREETED THE NEW PRISONERS.

BEFORE YOU ARE SENT TO THE HUTS LET ME GIVE YOU A WARNING.



I DO NOT TOLERATE INTRIGUES, PLOTS OR ESCAPES. YOU MUST ALL SUBMIT TO THE STRICT DISCIPLINE OF SAINT OMER. NOBODY HAS ESCAPED FROM MY CAMP... AND THINGS ARE GOING TO STAY THAT WAY. NOTHING MORE.



WUPPERTAL'S WORDS WERE VERY FOREBODING.

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STAY IN HERE?
HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT THE COLD?
THERE ARE NO BLANKETS ON THE BEDS
AND NO PANES IN THE WINDOWS!



MAJOR WUPPERTAL IS NO FOOL, LIEUTENANT.
THOSE WHO ARE COLD THINK ONLY OF LOOKING
FOR WARMTH AND ARE NOT IN A CONDITION
TO ESCAPE.

I'LL MAKE A
COMPLAINT.



YOUR COMPLAINTS WILL JUST GET THROWN
INTO THE WASTE-PAPER BASKET, LIEUTENANT.
NOT ONLY THAT, WUPPERTAL IS VERY MEAN
WITH THE FOOD RATIONS.

BUT THIS IS
ABOMINABLE.



MAJOR WUPPERTAL DOES EVERYTHING IN HIS
POWER TO WEAKEN AND DEMORALISE US. BY
THE WAY, SIR, I'M CORPORAL DYN. WHO
IS THE HIGHEST RANKING MAN AMONG
THE NEWCOMERS?



I AM, CORPORAL. LIEUTENANT DAN TRAVIS OF COMBINED OPERATIONS.



BLIMEY! A COMMANDO CHIEF! I'LL INFORM COLONEL DURHAM.

WHO IS COLONEL DURHAM, BOYS?



THE REAL COMMANDANT OF THE CAMP. WE ONLY OBEY WUPPERTAL'S ORDERS IF HE GIVES HIS CONSENT.



WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME, CORPORAL?

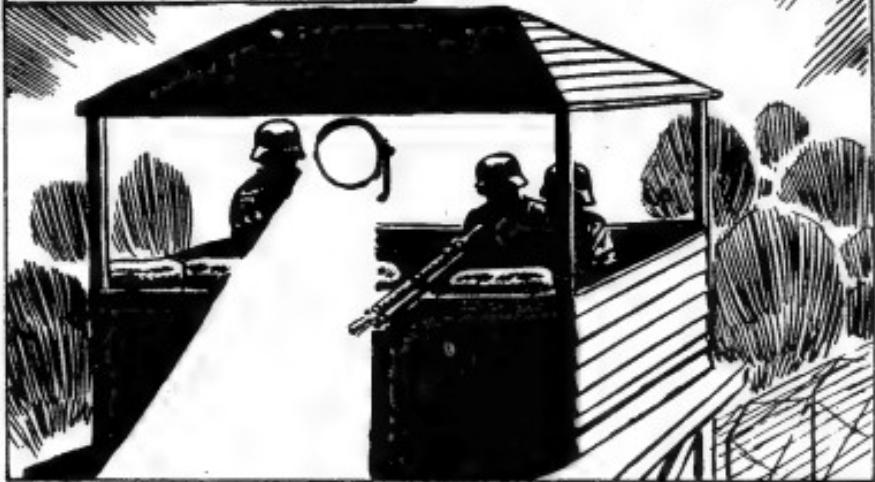
MAGNIFICENT.

YOU'RE STILL THE SENIOR OFFICER, SIR. THERE'S ONLY ONE OFFICER AMONG THE NEWCOMERS. A LIEUTENANT OF THE COMMANDOS.





... AND ANY PRISONER CAUGHT OUT-SIDE THE HUTS WAS KILLED BY THE GUARDS' MACHINE-GUNS.



BUT CORPORAL DYN HAD BECOME AN EXPERT GO-BETWEEN AND KNEW HOW TO DODGE ALL THE GUARDS.

GOOD EVENING,
LIEUTENANT!

COME IN, OLD
CHAP.



LIEUTENANT DANIEL TRAVIS.

COLONEL CLARK DURHAM OF THE R.A.F. AT EASE, TRAVIS. NOW LET'S DISPENSE WITH FORMALITIES. WE MUST TALK.



WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ON THE COAST, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN BOULOGNE AND MONTREUIL, THE GERMANS HAVE STARTED TO INSTALL POWERFUL BATTERIES WITH WHICH THEY ARE PLANNING TO BOMBARD THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

WE MUST PREVENT THEM FROM DOING THIS!



FOR IF THEY MANAGED TO KNOCK OUT OUR COASTAL DEFENCES, THE LUFTWAFFE COULD BOMB AT WILL. YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS, LIEUTENANT TRAVIS?



YES, I DO. DO YOU KNOW THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE ARTILLERY INSTALLATIONS?



THAT'S THE PROBLEM, LIEUTENANT. I DON'T KNOW IT. SO WE MUST DO TWO THINGS URGENTLY. LOCATE THE BATTERIES AND INFORM ENGLAND.

HASN'T ANYBODY TRIED TO ESCAPE, COLONEL?













HE TURNED OUR RASH ATTEMPT
INTO A GORY EPISODE.

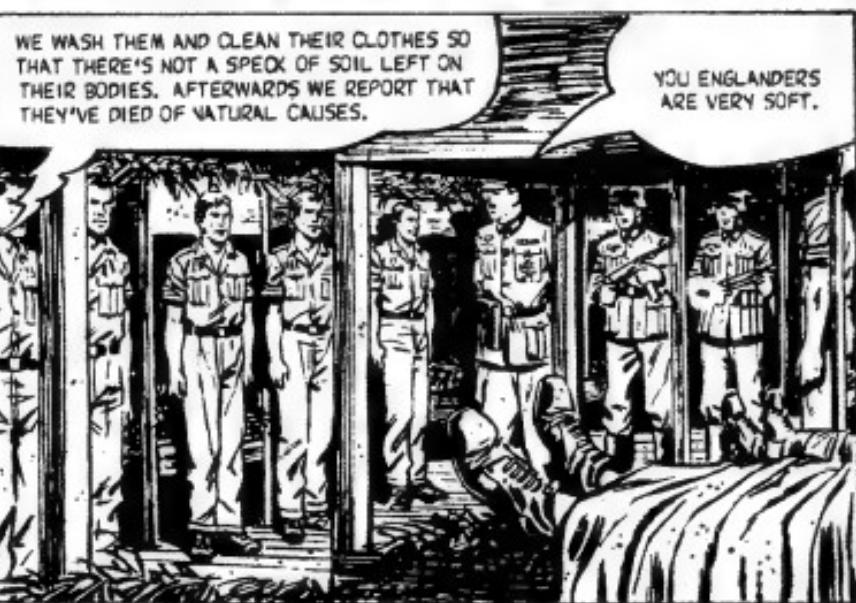
MY GOD...
AAAGGGHH!











AND WE HAVE TO RESCUE THE MEN WHO DIE SO THAT WUPPERTAL DOESN'T MISS THEM AT ROLL-CALL.

WE WASH THEM AND CLEAN THEIR CLOTHES SO THAT THERE'S NOT A SPECK OF SOIL LEFT ON THEIR BODIES. AFTERWARDS WE REPORT THAT THEY'VE DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES.

YOU ENGLANDERS
ARE VERY SOFT.

CAN YOU MAKE ANY SUGGESTION,
LIEUTENANT? CAN WE COUNT ON
YOU?

NO, COLONEL. THE IDEA OF
A TUNNEL SEEMS RIDICULOUS
TO ME!



RIDICULOUS? WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? IT
WOULD BE EXCELLENT IF WE KNEW HOW TO STOP
THE EARTH CAVING IN. YOU'RE A COMMANDO
AND VERY PROBABLY YOU KNOW HOW TO
BUILD A TUNNEL SUCCESSFULLY. WE'RE
COUNTING ON YOUR COLLABORATION.

WELL, DON'T COUNT ON
IT, COLONEL. I'M NOT
HELPING TO BUILD AN
UNDERGROUND TUNNEL
WHERE MEN DIE BURIED
ALIVE. MAY I LEAVE?







WHILE THE TANK CAPTAIN EXPLAINED HIS PLAN TO THE COLONEL DAN TRAVIS WAS TORMENTED BY HIS MEMORIES...HIS TERRIBLE MEMORIES.



NO... NOT A TUNNEL.
I DON'T WANT TO BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
DEATH OF MORE MEN.

HAMPSHIRE, 1935...



I'M SORRY, DANIEL, BUT I STILL THINK
THE INSIDE WALLS ARE WEAK. THEY WON'T
SUPPORT THE PRESSURE OF AN UNDER-
GROUND RIVER.

FOR THE LOVE OF
MIKE, WHO'S THE
EXPERT SPELEOLOGIST
HERE? YOU OR ME?

ENCOURAGED BY THE OPTIMISM AND EXPERIENCE OF DAN TRAVIS, HIS COMPANIONS FOLLOWED HIM.

BE CAREFUL WITH THIS ROCK.



CAN YOU HEAR
THE NOISE OF THE
WATER, DAN?

SUDDENLY THE TRAGEDY TOOK PLACE!

HELL!

THE POWERFUL GUSH OF WATER NOT ONLY THREW THE UNFORTUNATE SPELEOLOGIST TO THE BOTTOM OF THE GROTTO...



... IT ALSO PROVOKED A TERRIBLE CAVING IN OF EARTH.

OH, MY GOD!





NO! NO! THEY'VE ALL BEEN BURIED
ALIVE! AND I'M TO BLAME! JUST
BECAUSE OF MY DAMNED CONCEIT!

SOCIETY DIDN'T HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE DEATHS - BUT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT HE WAS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF HIS COMPANIONS.

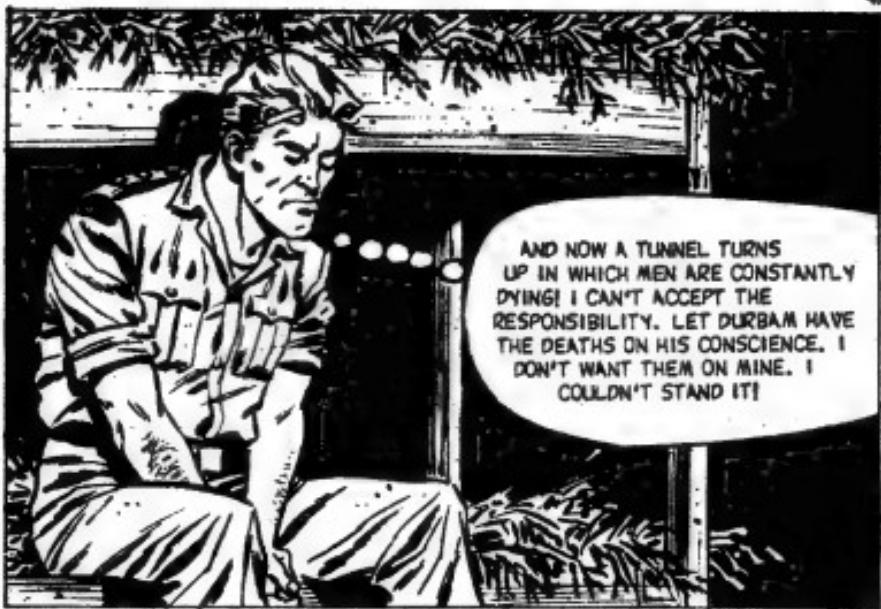
PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE, HOLMES. I WANT TO BE ALONE.



IT WAS ONLY WHEN WAR BROKE OUT THAT HE EMERGED FROM HIS SECLUSION.

YOUR REQUEST TO JOIN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES HAS BEEN ACCEPTED.





AND NOW A TUNNEL TURNS UP IN WHICH MEN ARE CONSTANTLY DYING! I CAN'T ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY. LET DURBAM HAVE THE DEATHS ON HIS CONSCIENCE. I DON'T WANT THEM ON MINE. I COULDN'T STAND IT!



THE NEXT MORNING...

I SAY, TRAVIS!

DAMN THEM! WHY
CAN'T THEY LEAVE
ME IN PEACE?



LET'S FORGET ABOUT LAST NIGHT'S CONVERSATION.
EVERYTHING'S BEEN SETTLED. COLONEL DURBAM IS
GOING TO TAKE THE RISK OF EXCAVATING THE
TUNNEL PERSONALLY. IF HE FAILS,
NOBODY WILL TRY AGAIN.

BUT IT WOULD MEAN THAT
NOBODY WILL LOCATE THE
BATTERIES AND INFORM
ENGLAND.



AS SOON AS THE CAPTAIN HAD LEFT
TRAVIS FELT VERY WORRIED.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? I CAN'T
JUST SIT HERE WITH MY
ARMS FOLDED!



THAT NIGHT....

TRAVIS! WHY HAVE
YOU COME?

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING
TO DO, COLONEL. I'LL TAKE
YOUR PLACE, BUT ONLY ON
CONDITION THAT I CARRY
OUT THIS MISSION ON
MY OWN!



HIS CONDITION WAS ACCEPTED AND IMMEDIATELY HE PREPARED TO SET TO WORK.

THIS IS THE PLAN OF THE TUNNEL. HERE, AT THIS POINT, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE RIVER, IS WHERE THE COLLAPSES OCCUR.

I SEE.

AFTER ROLL-CALL THAT NIGHT TRAVIS BEGAN HIS RISKY MISSION.

WE'LL SOON SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

GOOD LUCK, LIEUTENANT!

BUT CLARK DURBAN HAD SLIGHTLY ALTERED TRAVIS'S PLAN.

NOW, REMEMBER, CAPTAIN, THIS IS THE LAST ATTEMPT AND WE MUST DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO GUARANTEE ITS SUCCESS. AFTER YOU AND CORPORAL DYN HAVE BEEN UNDERGROUND FOR SIX HOURS WE WILL CLOSE UP THE ENTRANCE!

VERY WELL, SIR.

SIX HOURS WAS THE TIME CALCULATED FOR THEM TO SUCCEED IN ESCAPING. WHEN THAT TIME WAS UP THE ENTRANCE WOULD BE COMPLETELY CLOSED UP. THEN HOW WOULD THE SADISTIC WUPPERTAL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THREE MEN?



THE HOURS WENT BY... AND UNDERGROUND,
BENEATH THE IMPREGNABLE CAMP OF SAINT OMER,
A MAN WAS PAINFULLY ADVANCING INCH BY INCH.



HE DID NOT KNOW THAT TWO FRIENDS, ALSO WILLING TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES,
WERE FOLLOWING HIM AND WERE EAGER TO HELP AND PROTECT HIM.

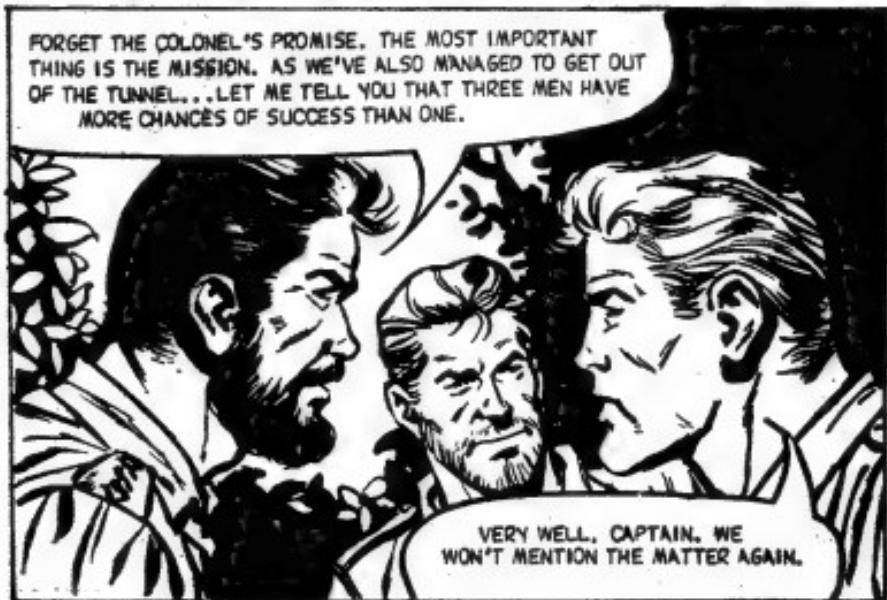
IT'S MARVELLOUS!
THE COLLAPSES SHOULD
HAVE STARTED IN THIS
ZONE.

THE LIEUTENANT
KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING,
SIR. LOOK HOW HE'S
PLACED THE PLUGS.

SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN...

AT LAST! THE POOR
BOYS WHO ATTEMPTED
THIS BEFORE ME MADE
THE MISTAKE OF USING
PLUGS IN SOFT EARTH
INSTEAD OF HARD.







THE DEVIL!
IT WAS ALL FOR
NOTHING.







YOU MUST REST NOW AND DON'T WORRY.
WE'LL LOCATE THESE BATTERIES...
TOMORROW AT DUSK.



THE THREE ENGLISHMEN RECOVERED
THEIR STRENGTH OVER THE NEXT FEW
HOURS. THEN, AT DUSK THE NEXT DAY...

I'LL PUT YOU IN CONTACT
WITH THE MEN IN MARCEL PERROT'S
SECTION. THEY'LL BE QUITE
WILLING TO OBEY YOUR ORDERS.



WHEN PERROT WAS INFORMED OF THE MISSION ENTRUSTED TO THE THREE FUGITIVES HE REACTED KEENLY.

COUNT ON US, LIEUTENANT.
I'M SURE WE'LL LOCATE THESE BATTERIES RAPIDLY.



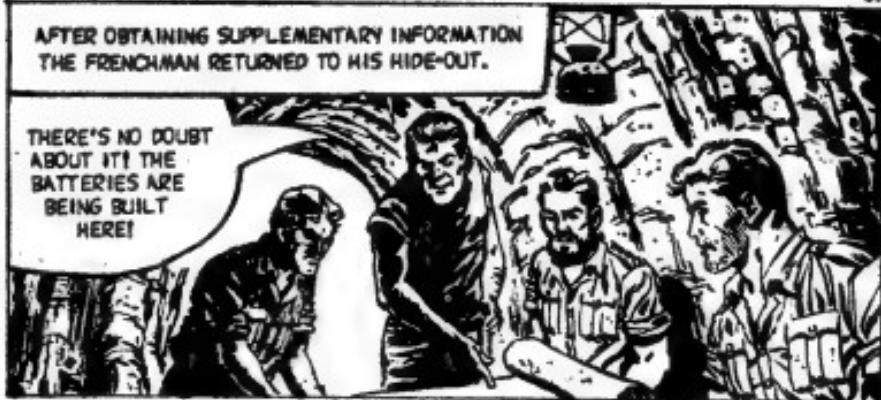
PERROT MOVED ASTUTELY ABOUT THE ZONE.

YES, MARCEL, OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS HUGE CONVOYS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SMALL BAY OF BRAGUETTE. ACCORDING TO THE WAYBILL THE WAGGONS CONTAINED ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIAL... BUT REALLY THEY WERE CARRYING TONS OF CEMENT AND STEEL..



AFTER OBTAINING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
THE FRENCHMAN RETURNED TO HIS HIDE-OUT.

THERE'S NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT! THE
BATTERIES ARE
BEING BUILT
HERE!



AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT
THE AIRCRAFT CAN DETECT?
NOTHING! BUNKERS AND CANNONS
ARE BEING INSTALLED IN A
THICK WOOD OF PINE TREES! THE
FOLIAGE OF THE TREES
COMPLETELY CAMOUFLAGES THE
EXACT POSITION OF THE
BATTERIES.



ONE SOLUTION EXISTS, MARCEL. WE CAN FILTER
INTO ENEMY TERRITORY AND LET OFF BENGAL
LIGHTS WHERE THE BATTERIES ARE INSTALLED
AT AN AGREED HOUR WITH THE R.A.F.



IT'S A FASCINATING MADNESS!

SOME HOURS LATER THE PLAN OF THAT HANDFUL OF HEROES HAD BEEN PICKED UP IN LONDON AND APPROVED.

MON DIEU, THE R.A.F. WILL BE FLYING OVER BRAGUETTE AT MIDNIGHT.



THEY REACHED THE BATTERIES A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE AGREED HOUR.

HAVE YOU ALL SYNCHRONISED YOUR WATCHES? GOOD LUCK! YOU KNOW WHEN TO LET OFF THE BENGAL LIGHTS.



SLOWLY AND EFFICIENTLY THEY APPROACHED THEIR OBJECTIVES.

UHFFFF!



THIS IS TERRIBLE!
MY NERVES ARE ON
EDGE!



AT THE APPOINTED TIME...

LISTEN!

AIRCRAFT! THEY'RE
OURS! THEY'RE
HERE!



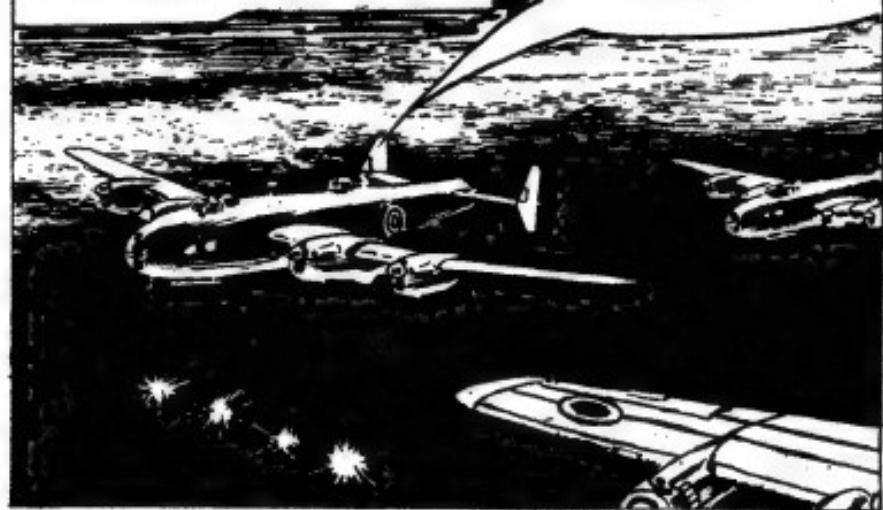
THE NAZI COMMAND POST DIDN'T SUSPECT A THING.

THE ENGLISH AGAIN! THE STUPID FOOLS WILL DROP THEIR BOMBS ANYWHERE, LITTLE KNOWING THAT WE ARE THE BEST TARGET!

WE'LL SOON PUT PAID TO THEIR COASTAL DEFENCES WITH OUR CANNONS.

NOW!

LOCATION VERIFIED. BOMBS AWAY.



EVERYBODY TAKE COVER! ALL
HELL'S GOING TO BE LET
LOOSE IN BRAGUTTE!



THE PIERCING WHISTLE OF THOUSANDS OF BOMBS
COULD BE HEARD AND THEN THE EARTH SHOOK
WITH A SERIES OF MIGHTY EXPLOSIONS.



IN A FEW SECONDS ALL THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE
GERMANS IN BRAGUETTE HAD BEEN REDUCED TO BURNING
CINDERS. CANNONS, FORTIFICATIONS, MEN... ALL WERE
SWALLOWED UP BY A FIERCE AND GIGANTIC FIRE.



AS THE AIRCRAFT RETREATED...

WELL, MISSION COMPLETED. EVERYTHING'S OVER... FOR THE MOMENT. NOW WE MUST TRY TO RETURN TO ENGLAND.

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE FOR US TO SOLVE THAT PROBLEM FOR YOU, LIEUTENANT. YOU'LL ARRIVE THERE SAFE AND SOUND, REST ASSURED.

AT DAWN...

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MY FRIENDS. WITHOUT YOUR HELP WE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEAL THE GERMANS THAT BLOW. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO RECOVER FROM IT. PERHAPS THEY NEVER WILL.

SO LONG,
MARCEL.

AND WHEN THEY WERE AT SEA...

I RECKON MARCEL PERROT AND
MEN LIKE HIM WILL HAVE FORMED
A GOOD OPINION OF THE
ALLIES.

YES, CAPTAIN, BUT THE
ACHIEVEMENT WASN'T JUST OURS.
REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED IN
THE PRISON CAMP... AND THOSE
WHO STILL REMAIN IN IT. ONE
DAY THEY WILL BE FREED.



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THIS MONTH**



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